

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The priority papers were filed with the original application papers. The undersigned hereby reiterates the priority claim made in the earlier-filed Declaration.

The claims have been amended to overcome the §112 rejection.

The drawing has been replaced with a formal drawing.

The claims stand rejected under §103 on US 3,959,123 of Wickdahl in view of something to the examiner.

There is absolutely nothing in Wickdahl to suggest that the hydrocyclones should have their outer surfaces coated with something like Teflon. It is merely the examiner's position that, since it is obvious to coat something with Teflon, it is obvious to coat anything with Teflon.

Admittedly, it is standard, for instance, to coat cooking utensils with Teflon, although the examiner appears to be unable to find art even showing this. But to go further and to say that a

frying pan is the same as a hydrocyclone makes no sense. Besides there is no proof of the examiner's hypothesis that it is obvious to make "hydrocyclones out of metal and then coat the metal with polytetrafluoroethylene..."

More particularly, *Ex parte Leavel* (212 USPQ 763) clearly states that "The legal conclusion of obviousness must be bottomed on a solid evidentiary base." *Graham v. John Deere* 147 USPQ 459. There is absolutely nothing resembling a "solid evidentiary base" here. The examiner needs to find art showing it is obvious to coat a hydrocyclone or similar piece of equipment with the claimed low-friction coating. Absent such a "solid evidentiary base" the rejection under §103 must fall.

Thus the claims in the case are clearly allowable over the cited prior art. The unsubstantiated opinions of the examiner

about what is obvious are of no evidentiary value. Allowance of all claims is in order.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure:

Replacement drawing (1 sheet)